

January: LuxFLAG Microfinance Label

The BlueOrchard Microfinance Funds have been granted the LuxFLAG Microfinance Label for the 8th consecutive year. The LuxFLAG Label is recognised for its high standards and rigorous assessment of applicant funds.



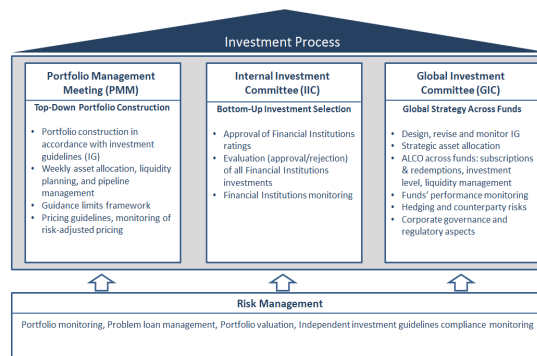
February: Launch of unprecedented Climate Insurance Fund

The Climate Insurance Fund aims to improve climate change adaptation in emerging markets by strengthening the resilience of the poor to extreme weather occurrences. The mandate was awarded to BlueOrchard after an international tender process and marks yet another innovation milestone in our track record.



March: Internal adjustments to further enhance performance and scale across funds. Initialising the Global Investment Committee

During the course of 2015 BlueOrchard has ventured into new territories like education finance and climate insurance. Whilst managing the data through BlueOrchard’s proprietary systems is fully scalable and each fund is governed by a dedicated Investment team, it takes institutionalised processes and a closer oversight to manage the complexity of underwriting and portfolio construction across mandates. We have therefore institutionalised the Global Investment Committee (GIC). The GIC provides strategic guidance on core fund management issues and leads strategic asset allocation across funds. Besides monitoring funds’ performance it addresses corporate governance, regulatory and cost aspects. All this comes to the benefit of our investors.



April: Field Trips

Key decision makers and investors were invited to join BlueOrchard’s investment team in the field for several days of first-hand insights into impact investing. This year’s field trips brought us to Lima, Peru and Nairobi, Kenya, where investors had the chance to meet micro entrepreneurs, Microfinance institutions as well as local regulators.



May: Seals of excellence -

BlueOrchard has been granted following licenses: FINMA Asset Manager license and the AIFM authorisation

By proving its institutional quality of governance and investment standards BlueOrchard received the FINMA Asset Manager license as well as the AIFM authorisation, demonstrating the group's full commitment to Swiss as well as European investors and markets.



June: Development Corporate Governance

The General Assembly of BlueOrchard agreed to further strengthen its management structure. Peter A. Fanconi was appointed as Chairman of the Board starting as of 1 January 2016. His current role as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be taken over by the COO/CFO Dr. Patrick Scheurle. Boris Collardi, CEO of Bank Julius Bär, was newly appointed to the Board of Directors.



July: Execution of the Regional Education Finance Fund for Africa

First investments for the Regional Education Finance Fund for Africa (REFFA) were placed. REFFA is the first education fund of its kind targeting the African continent and having as objective increasing equal access to education. Loans were given to as many as 4 financial institutions across 4 different countries. In addition, thanks to the REFFA Technical Assistance support, a new product for the financing of school fees has been created in order to adequately respond to parent's periodic needs for education expenses. Furthermore, the Swiss National TV station SRF joined BlueOrchard's CEO in the field in Cameroon to report on the impact of education finance.



August: Relocation Geneva office

BlueOrchard's Geneva office moved to a new location.
New address: 9, rue du Commerce, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland



September: BlueOrchard to further strengthen its team

In a move to further strengthen its team as well as expertise, the BlueOrchard family continues to grow also in 2015. Next to the new Head of Business Development, Patrick Elmer, our Head of Communications, Inès Mergny, as well as Ernesto Costa, our Private Equity / Insurance Investment Specialist, we were happy to welcome several additional high skilled professionals to the company.



October: Launch of newly created “Andbank Microfinance Fund”

In collaboration with the Andorra based Andbank, BlueOrchard launched the new and innovative “Andbank Microfinance Fund”, which allows 80% of the dividend to be donated to charity, taking advantage of a solid 15 years track record with average returns of over 4% per anno. With this new feature the “Andbank Microfinance Fund” goes even further in having a positive impact and acts in line with the company’s commitment. The fund is available on Allfunds as well as the Pershing platform.



November: Book publication “Small Money – Big Impact”

Drawing on BlueOrchard’s unique expertise, this publication explains how and why microfinance works. The first book in German in which Peter Fanconi and Patrick Scheurle describe with many practical examples and facts and figures, the power and worldwide impact of microfinance.



December: The BlueOrchard Microfinance success story continues

2015 was yet another year with a very strong fund performance and an even greater positive social impact across more than 60 countries. We have experienced strong growth across our funds, counting on our highly motivated employees. BlueOrchard has never been so well positioned as it is today and we are full of optimism to increase our impact even further. Last but not least, we are looking forward to celebrating 15 years of BlueOrchard in 2016. Together with a brief history on “15 years BlueOrchard story” we are publishing a book early 2016 which we believe is a very appropriate milestone for us celebrating 15 years of impact investing.

